

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A media data audio-visual device for viewing media data, comprising:

an audio-visual portion configured to display the media data;

a metadata storing portion configured to store metadata corresponding to the media data;

a communication portion configured to transmit the metadata externally and receive external metadata to be stored in the metadata storing portion; and

a display portion configured to display a time relationship between selected media data and selected metadata based on time data embedded in the media data and in the metadata.

2. The media data audio-visual device according to Claim 1, further comprising a metadata creating portion configured to enable a user to create metadata.

3. The media data audio-visual device according to Claim 2, wherein the metadata creating portion includes a disclosure selection tool configured to enable a user to designate whether created metadata is to be disclosed externally.

4. The media data audio-visual device according to Claim 1, further comprising a search condition

inputting portion configured to enable a user to input search conditions for searching the external metadata.

5 5. The media data audio-visual device according to Claim 1, further comprising a synchronizing portion configured to extract characteristic data that is stored in the metadata, search for corresponding characteristic data in associated media data, and to synchronize the metadata with the associated media data
10 to correct any time differences between the metadata and the media data caused by inaccurate time data in the metadata.

15 6. The media data audio-visual device according to Claim 5, wherein the audio-visual portion displays the metadata and the media data with corrected timing corrected by the synchronizing portion.

20 7. A metadata sharing system, comprising:
a plurality of client media data audio-visual devices each configured to display media data and metadata corresponding to the media data; and
a server configured to exchange data among the plurality of client media data audio-visual devices,
25 wherein each of the plurality of client media data audio-visual devices includes:
an audio-visual portion configured to display the

media data;

a metadata storing portion configured to store the metadata;

5 a communication portion configured to transmit the metadata to the server and to receive metadata from the server to be stored in the metadata storing portion; and

10 a display portion configured to display a time relationship between the media data and the metadata based on time data included in the metadata and in the media data,

wherein the server includes a metadata storing portion configured to store the metadata transmitted from the plurality of client media data audio-visual
15 devices.

8. The metadata sharing system according to Claim 7, wherein the metadata creating portion includes a disclosure selection tool configured to enable a user
20 to designate whether created metadata is to be disclosed externally.

9. The metadata sharing system according to Claim 7, wherein each of the plurality of client media data
25 audio-visual devices includes a metadata creating portion configured to enable a user to create the metadata.

10. The metadata sharing system according to
Claim 7, wherein each of the plurality of client media
data audio-visual devices includes a search request
5 inputting portion configured to enable a user to input
a search request for searching the metadata stored in
the server, and wherein the server includes a metadata
searching portion configured to search for the metadata
in the metadata storing portion that corresponds to the
10 search request.

11. The metadata sharing system according to
Claim 10, wherein the server is configured to transmit
search results from the metadata searching portion to a
15 requesting media data audio-visual device of the
plurality of client media data audio-visual devices
such that a desired metadata from the search results is
selected by a user.

20 12. The metadata sharing system according to
Claim 10, further comprising a user input interface
configured to input a search request by a user for
searching metadata corresponding to media data
scheduled to be broadcast at a future time, and wherein
25 each of the plurality of client media data audio-visual
devices is configured to set a recording reservation to
record the media data scheduled to be broadcast using

search results from the metadata searching portion.

13. The metadata sharing system according to
Claim 10, wherein the server includes a metadata
5 creator data storing portion configured to store
metadata creator data identifying a creator of specific
metadata and incrementing a value associated with the
metadata creator data each time the specific metadata
is exchanged among the plurality of client media data
10 audio-visual devices, and wherein metadata creator data
is added to the search request of the search request
inputting portion.

14. The metadata sharing system according to
15 Claim 13, wherein the metadata creator data is obtained
using creator authentication data included in the
metadata.

15. A metadata sharing system, comprising:
20 a plurality of client media data audio-visual
devices each configured to display media data and
metadata; and
a server configured to exchange data among the
plurality of client media data audio-visual devices,
25 wherein each of the plurality of client media data
audio-visual devices includes:
an audio-visual portion configured to display the

media data;

a metadata creating portion configured to enable a user to create metadata corresponding to the media data;

5 a metadata storing portion configured to store the metadata; and

a communication portion configured to transmit the metadata created by the metadata creating portion to the server and to receive metadata from the
10 server to be stored in the metadata storing portion,

wherein the server includes a metadata storing portion configured to store the metadata transmitted from each of the plurality of client media data audio-
15 visual devices and a bulletin board configured such that created messages are posted by the plurality of client media data audio-visual devices,

wherein the metadata creating portion is configured to associate created messages with a
20 specified position in corresponding media data, and

wherein the communication portion is configured to transmit the created messages to the server and the created messages are written to a bulletin board corresponding to the specified position.

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16. The metadata sharing system according to Claim 15, wherein the media data includes a plurality

of portions, and wherein the server includes a bulletin board for each of the plurality of portions of the media data or a specific portion of at least one of the plurality of portions of the media data, the server
5 being configured to determine an appropriate bulletin board from the specified position of one of the created messages and to write the one of the created messages to the appropriate bulletin board.

10 17. The metadata sharing system according to Claim 15, wherein each of the plurality of client media data audio-visual devices is configured to set up a recording reservation for recording a program broadcast utilizing scheduled broadcasting data of the
15 broadcasting program contained in a created message retrieved from the bulletin board.

 18. A metadata sharing system, comprising:
 a plurality of client media data audio-visual devices each configured to display media data and
20 metadata; and

 a server configured to exchange data among the plurality of client media data audio-visual devices,
 wherein the server includes scrambled media data and associated metadata containing descrambling
25 information for the scrambled media data to allow the scrambled media data to be viewed on at least one of the plurality of client media data audio-visual

devices,

wherein each of the plurality of client media data
audio-visual devices includes:

an audio-visual portion configured to display
media data;

a metadata creating portion configured to enable a
user to create metadata corresponding to specific
media data;

a metadata storing portion configured to store
metadata;

a communication portion configured to transmit
metadata created by the metadata creating portion
to the server and to receive the media data and
the metadata from the server; and

a descrambling portion configured to descramble
the scrambled media data received from the server
using the descrambling information contained in
the metadata received from the server.

19. The metadata sharing system according to
Claim 18, wherein the metadata containing descrambling
information also includes advertisement data to be
displayed with the descrambled media data on a
recipient of the plurality of client media data audio-
visual devices.